The minds of our generation going, global going, green.
Jasmine Ruvakaba, an ESSP senior, has had multiple internships in the past years, beginning with the Monterey Abalone Company and then the Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project. Ruvakaba credited her advisor for encouraging her to pursue available positions, and discussed how helpful the internships had been.

"During the first internship we met as a class, got to talk with other interns, and at the end of the semester we did presentations for mentors and students about our experiences," said Ruvakaba. "I was more confident, and I felt good going on to other opportunities."

Most recently Ruvakaba has been interning for the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute through the Monterey Peninsula College's internship program.

"It's been pretty cool picking which internships I wanted, plus I'm working with real people who do this for a living," said Ruvakaba.

Upon graduation Ruvakaba will look into opportunities as an independent research contractor.

"I'm research diving certified, so I'll look at my options around the globe for possible research cruises," said Ruvakaba.

"I was more confident, and I felt good going on to other opportunities."

JASMINE RUVAKABA, ESSP SENIOR
Alexis Bennett, an HCOM senior was accepted by Splash Magazine Worldwide, an online lifestyle magazine based in Los Angeles, for a three month summer position.

“It was really just how I handled myself that got me in,” said Bennett. “I spent the days of Christmas break searching, and I looking for an opportunity.”

She found her position on www.internships.com, and her experience there taught her just how stressful, but fun, working in a fast pace environment can be.

“It learned how busy the industry is. It’s very focused, deadlines were serious, but it was a good experience,” said Bennett.

When asked how essential she thought internships were, she emphasized how important it was to have an edge on any competition.

“It’s always nice to have something behind you to back you up,” said Bennett.

Lauren Patron, an HCOM senior, is currently interning at KZU National Public Radio. Through the TAT Advanced Radio Internship course, she is gaining experience editing and writing news broadcasts. Patron and other student interns will host monthly CSUMB segments, discussing campus issues.

“We just did our first piece about name changes for the departments, and about the new signs that were added,” said Patron.

She also stressed how different her experiences at NPR have been from the classroom.

“It’s a lot of hands on experience different from the classroom, where you get the basics you need to know,” said Patron. “It’s a lot different than doing television news.”

Upon graduation in the spring, Patron plans to go into some kind of broadcast journalism, most likely radio.

“I felt very fortunate to have been encouraged so much by my professors,” said Patron. “It was a long process, but I would encourage anyone to do it as means toward personal growth.”

Crystal Costa graduated this past fall from the HCOM department and has been an unpaid intern at KION 46 and FOX 35 news, since July 2006.

“It took two months of calling them, leaving messages, and emailing,” said Costa. “One day I called and the News Director answered. She told me she had been meaning to call, and since it was an unpaid position all that was left from there was to figure out my schedule.”

The Monday after graduation she began her new position as Associate Producer of the daily noon show at the station, her internship and class experience playing critical roles in her hiring.

Costa recognized how critical her classroom experience has been to her success, and added that Investigative Journalism was extremely beneficial.

“I had been an HCOM major, but I didn’t know what I wanted to do,” said Costa. “It made me realize what different reporters do, and that I could be out there always doing new and exciting things.”

Eric Bravo, an ISSM senior, held a three month internship for Coastal Grower Magazine. There, Bravo’s responsibilities varied, allowing him hands on experience in multiple fields, and he was also able to have an article published in the community section.

“I learned that not all publications are the same,” Bravo said. “As long as you know the trade you’re writing about, you don’t have to be a sophisticated writer.”

Bravo went on to discuss how necessary it is for students to pursue internships in their specific fields.

“They’re very important because you can find out if you’re even interested in working in that environment,”

ERIC BRAVO,
ISSM SENIOR

“Letters are very important because you can find out if you’re even interested in working in that environment,”

ERIC BRAVO,
ISSM SENIOR

Tele-dramatic Art and Technology
Wednesday Dec. 20, 6 p.m., World Theater


Health and Wellness
Friday Dec. 15, 1 p.m., University Center living room

It will include the works of Melissa M. Fehn-Tuavo & Tracy M. Huckaby with “The process of offering non-traditional sport activities to motivate participation,” Rachael M. Krugman with “Caloric mapping: The CSUMB campus,” Jenny Foster & James Satterthwaite with “CSUMB: Recreation/Activity Guide,” and Brittany R. Davis with “Anatomy and physiology: Open laboratory.”

Social and Behavioral Sciences
Thursday Dec. 21, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., University Center conference room


Telecommunications, Multimedia, and Applied Computing
Friday Dec. 22, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Building 18, Room 118

The capstones presented will provide a broad-based understanding of current technologies and applications, and merge this knowledge with design communication and management skills.
Humanities and Communications
Friday Dec. 15, 5-7 p.m.,
Music Hall, building 30

Students will share their research and creative projects that will reflect a diversity of topics and will strengthen understanding of challenging questions and difficult issues. The festival will present all of the HCOM capstones including work by Arwa Abushariefeh titled “Islam and Jihad.” It is a simple explanation of Islam and jihad especially for non-Muslim audiences with answers to common questions. It covers different sects in Islam, its five pillars, point of view about how Muslims and Westerners look at or view jihad, the multiple meanings of jihad and whether or not 9/11 and bombing suicide is the jihad of Islam. Another work that will be presented is “The Debate over Violent Fiction: Are We Escaping the Real Issue?” by Scott Horbaly. It is an examination of the debate concerning the effects of violent fiction, specifically questioning whether the problem lies with exposure to violent themes or whether the real issue is more complex. It will discuss the philosophical perspective of escapism and go on to show how it fits into the debate.

Global Studies
Thursday Dec. 21, 11 a.m.-noon,
University Center conference room

GS strives for understanding and appreciating the diversity of people, natural environments, cultures, economies, and political systems of the world. Amanda Richardson will present “Toy Soldiers: The Integration and Rehabilitation of Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone” where she will take a look at former child combatants that have been separated, orphaned or shunned from their families and communities and their difficulty engaging with civilians, obtaining an education or finding the opportunity to learn everyday job skills. Natalie Hudson will showcase “Growing up with Migration: Impacts on Oaxacan Youth Culture and Identity” where she will use her experience of living for a semester in Oaxaca, Mexico to present an analysis of Oaxacan migration as it attributes to the identity of youths who remain there.

Business
Thursday Dec. 14, 8:30 a.m.-
1:30 p.m., Friday Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m.
-noon, and Thursday Dec.
21, 1-1:30 p.m.,
Building 29 room 101

Student teams will present strategic competitive analyses featuring companies and organizations like English Ales, Liquid Surf, and Yoga Center of Carmel.

Earth Systems Science and Policy
Thursday Dec. 21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.,
University Center living room

The ESSP capstone festival will present the projects of Luis Rodriguez, Raquel Sosa, Adam Crow, Ashley Torres, Megan Holbrook, Richard Maillet, Shannon Lamb and David Wilson, Dana Devries, Alana Rivadenyra, Caitlin Moehrk, Tyler Frome, Chuck Hanley, Juan Perez, Kersten Kelly, Kathryn Spencer, and Michelle Fergus.

Michael Murray (left) and Dustin Barton (right) present their capstone on working with the Liquid Surf company, Dec. 9.

PHOTO BY MAXELL GREEN

news
SUMMER SCHOOL RUMORS DEBUNKED

Environmental Committee greens campus

Gossip constantly plagues the CSU Monterey Bay campus. One of the more convincing rumors this semester was that CSUMB was going to switch from a two-semester year to a tri-semester year.

The hearsay-furthered when the purpose for the semester change unfolded; CSUMB can’t afford to keep summer school.

All of theses claims are false, said Leslie Arutunian, Special Assistant to the Provost.

Arutunian found a bit of humor in theses rumors and exclaimed, “Everything is on track.”

In fact there have been a few internal changes but nothing students need to be concerned with, Arutunian said.

The cost of summer enrollment and courses will not change. There is still plenty of work involved with choosing the schedule of summer courses but all is well. Choosing which courses will be available however, remains just as problematic as it has been in the past. Keeping track of what is available each semester and sustaining a balance is vital in the creation of the course schedules.

Arutunian said, “Maintaining the same summer classes every year is important so students can plan ahead and be prepared for summer.”

The usual ten to 20 summer courses will be offered. A few HCOM courses, language courses, liberal studies courses, health and wellness courses, but nothing is definite or certain yet.

Summer registration may begin as early as March of 2007.

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Environmental Committee greens campus

Tristan Mansson-Perrone meeting with his environmental committee in the Associated Students office.

The Associated Students (AS) Environmental Committee continues to make CSU Monterey Bay's campus environmentally friendly. The committee recently spearheaded the new motion sensor lights in the gym. During a recent committee meeting the California Department of Conservation stopped in to let CSUMB know that it is the first CSU to be part of their Comprehensive Recycling Community project and therefore the school has the department's support in more ways than one. Rhonda Andrade, field representative for the Monterey area, continued to inform the, enthusiastic committee that the department "can provide the resources, if you can do the work."

While the environmental committee went on, discussing possible Earth Week events for the school, the department suggested different approaches the committee could use to educate the students. They pulled out a normal looking backpack and explained how it was made from eight 2-liter soda bottles and was one of many products that can be made from recycled products.

This year the environmental committee is looking to celebrate Earth Week sometime in April. A benefit concert is in the process of being planned for the school and surrounding community.

The Energy Innovation Fund (EIF) is hoping to be unveiled next semester, but is already helping the environmental committee by being one source of funding for the gym lights. Tristan Mansson-Perrone, Teledramatic Arts and Technology (TAT) junior and environmental senator said that they are still working on a board for the fund. Although he was proud to say, that CSUMB will be the first public school with this fund.

Meanwhile, Alana Oiladeneyra, a part of the environmental committee and as an Earth Systems Science and Policy (ESSP) senior, will be doing her capstone on recycling and waste cleanup here on campus. She will be conducting a waste audit on science building 53, as well as attending recycling workshops in Monterey as a member of AS.

Other upcoming projects include compost able plastic mugs for the dining areas. Mansson-Perrone said the mugs may cost $4 pre-ordered and $6 after their arrival on campus. He went on to say that because the mugs are reusable, student costs might go from $1.75 on coffee or tea to 75 cents. Also on the list, the committee has been given funding from AS to buy three large recycle bins to be placed at the Dinning Commons, Otter Express, and Otter Bay Cafe. The bins will have three divided areas for each type of recyclable product.

These projects and many more are what the committee members hope to accomplish or, at least, encourage during their time at CSUMB.
Strange new buildings appear on campus

One of the new half-dome shaped buildings (top left) is located by the entrance of the music building parking lot. The other half-dome (below) is located on the side of the IT building on 6th Avenue.

The prevalence of construction on campus is evident and completely visible to students and visitors; all, with the exception of the new, half dome-shaped creations on 6th Avenue across from the IT building.

The new Networks Operation Center is part of the CSU wide program, Telecommunications Infrastructure Upgrade. TIU is an 8-year-old program designed to make each CSU more technologically savvy. With this program CSU Monterey Bay has received $15.2 million. The program was anticipated to last until Jan. of 2007.

Each CSU will be brought up to "basic minimum standards" once the update is complete. According to a 2000 project description available at the CSU website, "10 percent of all faculty offices and no more than 5 percent of all administrative areas will be built without video services."

Some other outcomes from this project include the replacing of the telephone lines along 6th Avenue with street lamps. Building 32 was also created to help with electrical and natural gas distribution on campus as well as the raised floors in building 18.

Funding for the program comes from 1988's Proposition 1A and 2002's Prop. 47.

The new building will be the "datacenter for the university's server and network equipment," according to Paul Hall, a Network Operations Analyst for the school. Students will not notice any real time change in their internet services; however the building will increase the number of redundancies in campus internet service, making it more reliable as well as giving the school room to grow for another 10 years or so.

The current IT building, building 41, was used as a barber shop and troop store when Fort Ord was still an Army base. The new building, which will cleverly be called, building 41A, will offer many advantages that a custom designed building can offer, as opposed to a renovated barber shop.

Tis' the season to be shopping

Holiday sales are up by seven percent from last year but do not count CSUMB students among those who are interested in taking advantage of all the sales. Students are celebrating the shopping season conservatively, enjoying the holidays with friends and family but are not planning to over-spend their budget this Christmas.

HCOM major, Michelle Hill, gets into the holiday spirit by decorating her home but she does not participate in the usual gift exchange, preferring to let her daughter pick one thing, "she has chosen drivers training." Hill said that she and her husband "will save for a vacation they take once a year with the money they do not spend on gifts for one another."

Online shopping, an alternative this holiday season is how you can avoid the madness of the malls. Liberal Studies major Michelle Gayhart's life has been easier since "there are no crowds of present," Hill said.

Even though most students are keeping Christmas low key this year there are shop-aholics at CSUMB. One self proclaimed "shop-aholic" is Liberal Studies major, Monica Maciel, who shops at the mall "at least once a week" throughout the year. Maciel said "I bargain shop for myself and kids so I don't buy expensive things like a T.V." Maciel enjoys the spirit of giving at Christmas and believes that "it's not what you get but what you give to others this time of year."
An insider’s perspective

As Associated Student leaders many of us feel the article “Meet our student government” was not an accurate representation of our fantastic organization because it did not include many of the positive projects and events AS has recently accomplished or is the midst of planning.

Students have many free opportunities to have fun and meet new people on campus thanks to the hard work of Jose Sanchez, who has organized free salsa dancing classes, flag football games and more.

Zach Kasow and Zoe Carter coordinated a Voter Registration campaign that registered 390 students to vote in the most recent election which was a phenomenal success.

Joseph Ramos, Bridgett Kroemer and I also coordinated a Holiday Donation Drive which is currently collecting food, clothing and toys for those in need among our local community.

Mason Rothschild has also enticed student art work and local speakers.

Although the Associated Students has room for growth and change, we hope students remember the hours of dedicated hard work their elected representatives do on their behalf.

-CHRISTY COZBY, SENATOR-AT-LARGE

Response to

“An insider’s perspective”

We would like to thank Christy Cozby for voicing her opinion about the recent article, “Meet Our Student Government”. We understand her concerns, but also stand by our decision to run the article the way we did.

In any case, we believe the student body should be made aware that during the time we worked on the article, AS members were given an allotment of time to report to us of any projects that they had been working on and accomplished. In fact, most AS members were aware of the investigation and story. Some AS members even prepared their answers prior to their interviews.

One member of AS informed us that during the investigation, members were consulting each other about what questions were being asked in our interviews and what answers they were going to give as to stay in-sync with the others.

We believe that AS had multiple opportunities to share what they had done and they were even made aware of the questions that would be asked of them. As had more than enough chances to set the record straight.

Sincerely,
Mary Freeman
Lindsey Stetson
Staff Reporters for the Otter Realm

Letter to the Editor

Dear Otter Realm Editor,

Thank you so very much for the good laugh I had today! Your paper is absolutely hilarious! The juvenile way that 98% of your articles dilute down to sex was laughable, and reminded me of my high school days with young boys running about with unbridled hormones...like lovesick bull calves!

I hope that your journalists are planning on careers as comedians, because no serious journalistic entity would even so much as sniff at such material. However, if anyone needs a good laugh, they can always pick up a copy of the Otter Realm!

Thanks again for a comical moment!

-Reader

Response from the Editor in Chief,

Thanks for reading the Otter Realm and your continued support.

Adam Joseph
Editor-in-Chief

Hey

continued on page 9

One of the best excuses for not coming to class still resonates. "I had a class at two in the afternoon, this student was never there and showed up at the end of the semester claiming the reason for his absence was that the class was just too early," Axil said.

Axil also added that the issues students present that make up the phrase "Hey, it's CSUMB," are problems that happen at all colleges. Bureaucracy is found in all higher education and crossing into college is very hard for anyone to adjust to. Many freshmen are just a summer away from high school, still learning to navigate through both social and university issues and instead of rising to the challenge, one at fault is CSUMB.

Students have been using the phrase "Hey, it's CSUMB" in the wrong way. This phrase should be exuded when something fantastic happens to a former student or when a club on campus gets recognized in the community. Otters are making waves not only locally but worldwide and our excellence should be celebrated instead of degraded but a handful of slackers.
Response to "Hey it's CSUMB"

Kristina Kendrick, Staff Reporter
KRISTINA_KENDRICK@CSUMB.EDU

Voices erupted like a tidal wave in response to the opinion article titled "Hey, it's CSUMB" featured in the Nov. 30 issue of the Otter Realm. The phrase is a copout and is just another excuse for slackers to be slackers. The school has a small student population and community making it unique to the California State University system. Otter Realm reporter and HCOM major Sean Tibbitts uncovered the sentiment behind the phrase and what it means to students.

"It's used when cutting corners, when you increase page margins and use Arial rather than New Times Roman because it will get you an extra half page. It's used when rather than reading Romeo and Juliet you add it to your Netflix queue. The phrase is used to describe lower standards," Tibbitts wrote.

While the statement is correct in placing emphasis on the lazy student, it doesn't implicate all the other advantages students have in this modern internet world, making the statement just a complaint from a group of juvenile spoiled brats. College is the place for higher education and academic excellence where hard work and participation do pay off.

The emphasis on outcome based education, group work, presentations, and reflective papers take the front seat above lecture halls and scantron finals. Students often perceive this as an easy way to slack off. The work environment after college requires one to work with others and be able to speak in front of a group. CSUMB is equipping students with these skills in order to help them succeed in the feisty work world.

In addition to the education model at CSUMB the computer and internet have vastly improved the life of a student and allowed them to do even less work. The advance in technology with youtube.com, easybib.com and turnitin.com are just a few of the websites that can provide video for presentations, organize a bibliography, or make sure your paper doesn't include any plagiarism accessible for students. With all these advances students still complain about work load and it allows them to take a further back seat in their education and continue to place blame on others like professors and the institution itself.

Another perk that students have at CSUMB is the only CSU free tutoring center titled ASAP. This student service is open on campus five days a week featuring peer and professional math, science, foreign language, writing and technology tutoring to students of all levels from freshman to capstone. Spanish tutor, Global Studies student and Teaching Assistant Cesar Guillen noticed a variety of student dedication over the past five semesters working at ASAP.

"A quarter of the students I see want to learn and the rest just want to get through as fast as possible and those are the ones that are struggling complaining about instructors or course work," Guillen said.

He also commented on the attitude of students coming straight out of high school. "They want everything handed to them by the way they were brought up," said Guillen.

A student success story that turned into one of CSUMB's most respected faculty is one example of the benefits of CSUMB and the advantage of small class sizes. Angelic Cricchio better known as Axil started as one of CSUMB's first students, then writing tutor and eventually a writing and Global Studies faculty. On campus since the beginning in 1995, Axil has seen and heard it all from students.

HEY continued from page 8
Old Monterey Market Place and Carriage Rides
Santa is arriving on Alvarado Street in Old Monterey on a horse drawn carriage. Rides, Santa visits and caroling are all included. Come get into the holiday spirit in Old Monterey. Open Dec. 9, 16, and 23 from noon-2:00 p.m. For more information about the Old Monterey Market Place and Carriage Rides please call the Old Monterey Business Association at 655-8070.

Oliver! At the Western Stage
The Western Stage puts audiences in the holiday spirit with Lionel Bart’s award-winning musical production of Charles Dickens’ Oliver Twist. Watch as the Artful Dodgers lead Oliver into a life of petty crime and show-stopping song and dance. Show runs Dec. 1 thru 17. www.western-stage.org

Christmas in the Park
San Jose presents a winter wonderland. Featuring dozens of decorated trees, live entertainment, and visits from Santa. Walk through the park, located at the Plaza de Cesar Chavez, Market and San Carlos Streets. Daily, 9 a.m.-midnight, free of charge. 995-NOEL.

Santa on the Cannery
Santa will be visiting Cannery Row every Saturday and Sunday until Christmas. From noon-4 p.m., for more information call 649-6690.

Holiday Lights at Bonfante Gardens
Bonfante Gardens Theme Park hosts “Holiday Lights.”
See the spectacle of lights, plus special appearances by Snoopy and a Home for the Holidays parade, nightly. Open daily, Dec. 15 thru 23, for special times and theme park hours call 408-840-7100 or visit the Bonfante Gardens Web site.

A Christmas Carol at the Geary Theater
Charles Dickens “A Christmas Carol” will be performed at the Geary Theater in San Francisco. Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and all the three ghosts will be sure to bring back childhood nostalgia. Show runs from Dec. 5 thru 24, for more information and show times call 415-749-2ACT.

A Christmas Story at the San Jose Repertory Theatre
“Hey kid, you’ll shoot your eye out.” One of the most beloved lines from one of the most beloved films of the Christmas Season, “A Christmas Story,” will be performed at the San Jose Repertory Theatre. Enjoy the theatrical vision of this holiday classic. Shows run Wed. thru Sun. until Dec. 30, $28-$56, 831-367-7255 or visit www.sjrep.com.

Santa Cruz Holiday Lights Train

Wild Things Holiday Flashlight Tours
Wild Things Holiday Flashlight Tours are an exciting attribute to any holiday plans. Don’t worry; trained guides will conduct tours by flashlight through a Christmas light lit facility. The tours give the public a chance to see wild animals come to life before their eyes, even if they are behind cages. Special performances by the African elephant and black bear will be sure to dazzle. Santa and his reindeer may also make a surprise visit during the tours. Dec. 8 thru Dec. 27, Fri and Sat 6:30-8 p.m., reservations are required: $14 adults and $12 for ages 14 and under. For more information call 455-1901, ext. 3.

The Nutcracker at MPC
You don’t have to go far to enjoy the holiday’s most notorious plays. Monterey Peninsula’s Drama Department collaborates with Dance Kids of Monterey County to present a sprightly Nutcracker. Show runs Dec. 7 thru 17. For more information and show times visit www.mpcfaculty.net/drama_dept/season.htm or call 646-4213.

Monterey on Ice at the Monterey County Fairgrounds
Last year the rink drew 15,000 skaters and this year promises to be even better. A temporary professional ice rink at the Pattee Arena will be open to skaters of all levels. Open Mon thru Fri Noon-10 p.m. and Sat, and Sun 10 a.m.-10 p.m.: $12 adults and $10 for ages 12 and under and seniors. For more information call 915-9831 or visit www.montereyonice.com.

Monterey on Ice at the Monterey County Fairgrounds is open to the general public.
The Clown Princess

If you have an overwhelming love for silent films, vaudeville hits, and dance-hall favorites, then The Paragon Ragtime Orchestra presentation of The Clown Princess is the event for you.

The Paragon Ragtime Orchestra was founded by conductor Rick Benjamin in 1985 after discovering thousands of lost orchestral scores by The Victor Talking Machine Company's recording star, Arthur Pryor.

The Victor Talking Machine company was the top American manufacturer of phonographs and phonograph records from 1901 to 1929. These lost scores were originally set to accompany silent films such as Buster Keaton's Cops, Harold Lloyd's Never Weaken, and Charlie Chaplin's The Pawn Shop.

After making this amazing discovery Benjamin gathered fellow Juilliard colleagues to recreate an old fashioned good time.

The Clown Princess is presented by the World Theater but will take place at The Golden State Theater on Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased at The World Theater box office.

$20 general public, $15 CSUMB faculty, staff and alumni, $10 CSUMB students.

Lauren Arredondo, Staff Reporter contributed

Concerts at the HP Pavilion

Just because its winter break doesn’t mean you have to miss great shows at the HP Pavilion. Upcoming shows include: Dancing with the Stars, debuts Dec. 27 at 7:30 p.m. from $48.50-$95. Jan. 11, Justin Timberlake, 7:30 p.m., from $56-$96. Jan. 12-13, Harlem Globetrotters, 7:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. from $15-$17.50. www.hppsj.com.

Family Fun Run

Shed the holiday pounds with a 6.8 mile foot race and a 3 mile Family Fun Run Jan. 1. The 16 annual Rio Resolution Run in Carmel benefits local nonprofit agencies. 645-4777 or visit www.riogrillsresolutionrun.com.

94th Annual Wine and Food Festival

Enjoy two whole weeks of a wine tasting extravaganza. A gala at the National Steinbeck Center will feature food sampling from over 20 local restaurants and wine tasting from more than 35 Monterey County wineries. Event is Jan. 13 thru 27. Prices and venues vary. 775-4721 or visit www.WineAndFoodFestival.org.

There are many New Year’s Eve events in the San Francisco and San Jose area, many promise to be the best in Northern California. A great Website to view all the New Year’s Eve happenings is at http://cityguide.aol.com/.

Silver Fishes and New Year’s Wishes at the Monterey Bay Aquarium

The Monterey Bay Aquarium hosts its Hollywood-themed New Year’s Eve extravaganza which features a four-course seated dinner and dance party with live music, a complimentary champagne toast, and photo booths. This extravaganza is from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Cost is $75 in advance $80 at the door, and $60 for members. 866-963-9644.

Monterey presents First Night in Downtown Monterey

This New Year’s favorite is an event for families, kids and those wishing to stay sober on New Year’s Eve. This alcohol free celebration offers music, dance, and art exhibits indoors and outdoors throughout Downtown Monterey. 2 p.m.-midnight. www.firstnightmonterey.org.

Monterey on ice at the Monterey County Fairgrounds features decorated trees at the entrance.
ARTS

Student struts his stuff on the otterwalk

Elliott Singer, Staff Reporter
Elliott_Singer@rotsmb.edu

Tyler Birkestrand appears to be a typical student, attending classes and stressing about homework, but a closer look reveals a life that is anything but ordinary.

Birkestrand is balancing a part time modeling career. In his most recent ad for a Mercury Milan, he is supposed to be stuck in an awkward moment on a date. The ad is being run in the December issues of Rolling Stone, Elle, Allure and GQ. This is his highest paying ad thus far, for which he received around $2,700.

His friend and roommate Chad Laughlin describe Birkestrand as a "motivator; he gets his school work done."

Birkestrand said that the hardest part of maintaining his modeling career is all of the calendar work. "He is a Post-it kind of guy, he has Post-its all over his walls and computer," said Laughlin.

He has hopes that modeling can take him flexible hours, usually two days a month while also being able to pay for college.

Birkestrand's other roommate and friend, Aaron Longinotti, mentioned that he is "fairly shy, clean and organized." This may help explain why Diedre Fuller, his photographer, liked him; "he is a very clean man."

He has hopes that modeling can take him to Italy, Japan, Paris and New York but is not expecting to become a professional model after college. At the moment his is not sure what is going to happen to him in the near future.

"[I just] want to see where the industry takes me," said Birkestrand. If his modeling career does not pan out, he will be graduating this spring with a degree in motion graphics and sound design and a minor in journalism.

With this, he hopes to develop television logos and sound effects, like those used on NFL games and news broadcasts.

In his four and a half years at CSU Monterey Bay, Birkestrand has managed to keep busy. He has recently taken up surfing and helped found the Omega Delta Phi fraternity. He is also a member of the snowboarding club and quite passionate about ping-pong. He said jokingly while sipping a Guinness "Oh yea, I wear the short shorts and everything."
The success of The Rocky Horror Picture show continues to elevate the popularity of the Paper Wing Theatre. Located in Old Town Salinas, the Fox Theatre showcases Paper Wing Productions who put on six to seven shows a year.

“We were merely actors with talent - cast into the wind like a paper airplane - never knowing where we would land or how we would land, but always knowing we had to try to fly,” the site says of the production company.

“We hit”, the motto of the Paper Wing Theatre rings true for their next show taking the stage in Jan. “Fat Pig” a play by Neil LaBute focuses on peer pressure surrounding two star crossed lovers. Tom, a regular dude falls for a voluptuous, funny, and extremely overweight young lady, Helen. Tom lacks the balls to stand up for his, more cushion for the pushin’, woman in front of his shallow yet hilarious friends.

The play critiques the social construction of Hollywood and the change we can all make within ourselves. The cast and crew will have around six weeks to rehearse, bringing thought-provoking theater back to the community.

Following “Fat Pig” the socially existential book then film, “A Clockwork Orange,” will hit the stage. The novel written by Anthony Burgess, published in 1962 was adapted by Stanley Kubrick, nine years later.

The Paper Wing Production is staying true to Kubrick’s version and receiving the rights to the script, has been a huge buzz surrounding the play, set to debut at the end of March or early April. The nudity and rape scenes required those who auditioned on Dec. 9 to be over 18 years of age. If people are still interested, there are many spots yet to be filled in the cast and crew. Someone with martial arts experience is needed to choreograph a fight scene and should contact the theater for further information.

Lloyd Brewer voted best stage actor in 2005 by the Monterey County Weekly, shares equal partnership with Koly McBride and Ron Moore. These three work hard to bring edgy shows to the central coast, turning the stage theater scene into a hot supreme pizza just taken out of the oven.

Brewer is not only co-owner but also an extraordinary thespian that has many surprises in store for those coming out to see the show. He is bringing in a Santa Cruz DJ that will rock the theatre with mixed beats and intrigue.

“The score for Clockwork is complicated Beethoven, so he will be reproducing the music with free reign, bringing in 60’s and 70’s rock ‘n’ roll, the time when the movie came out,” Brewer said.

Brewer also promises that the show will be “graphic, graphic, graphic!”

Koly McBride (831) 675-0521 or Lj Brewer (831) 521-4512 or at thepaper-wingco@yahoo.com.
After “Parents” 1989 release, it was quickly forgotten, most likely due to its dark premise of cannibalistic parents and the audacity to call itself a comedy. You may already know Bob Balaban from his neurotically comic performances in all of Christopher Guest’s ensemble mocumentaries. “Parents,” happens to be flawlessly directed by Balaban, who has directed several episodes of different obscure television series.

I assure you this movie is much more than meets the eye. It plays on a universal fear every kid has had at least once: “what if my parents aren’t really who they say they are?”

The Laemles appear to be a normal suburban 1950s family. Nick Laemle (Randy Quaid) is a nine to five father whose interests include golf and steak dinners; Lily Laemle (Mary Beth Hurt) cleans the house in her high heel and Dorris Day flowered dress, while preparing hot food for every meal and caring for her only son, Michael Laemle (Bryan Madorsky).

Michael is an overly petite boy with an anemic white complexion as if he is in a constant state of fright. “Parents” is anything but a simple story about an ordinary family in the 1950’s. One night during dinner, 10-year old Michael asks, “What was this food before it was leftovers?” His father answers, “Leftovers to be.”

The viewer is quickly made aware of Michael’s skepticism towards dinner and his father’s underlined cannibalism. When Michael continues asking questions about the meat, tensions grow thick.

Nick continues to grow increasingly frightening to the viewer and Michael as he continues to force his son to eat this mysterious meat.

Quaid’s mouth and eyes sink into his skull, almost to the point of looking like there are three black holes on his face; every time Michael refuses to eat the meat portion of his dinner, Nick becomes more and more monstrous. Mom always comes to the rescue and excuses Michael from the dinner table.

The humor comes with the ridiculousness of the emphasis mom and dad put into their dinner times. Dad brings home meat every night for mom, who spends hours preparing beautiful dishes that look like they were pulled directly from a “Good Housekeeping” recipe.

Michael however, doesn’t find his home situation to be humorous at all and sets out on a dark disturbing mission to find proof of his parent’s cannibalism so it could be stopped.

“Parents” touches on that common question every child has asked at one time; “was I adopted?” Sometimes children concoct scenarios that their parents are really aliens or monsters, disguised as human during the daytime, but their disguise comes off at night. “Parents” brings these childhood fears to a literal level.
Spa offers mind and skin altering experiences

Yeren Attallah uses steam to open up and cleanse the pores on Dunn's face.

Using a low pH, the follicular cleansing foliates and removes the first eight layers of skin on Dunn's face.

The peel is then deactivated using a "mummy wrap," which consists of a warm baking soda solution.

Youngblood Mineral Cosmetics (available at spa), is applied during Dunn's makeup application.

The tranquility of Synergy Day Spa is created through a conglomerate of lavender aromatherapy, perfect room temperature, and soothing lighting.

Crafting a calming ambiance is the first step towards getting clients to unwind and prepare for treatment, according to Synergy esthetician Yeren Attallah.

Owner, Sanya Liddle, opened the Pacific Grove day spa four years ago, themed to resemble a typical European day spa. Facials, cosmetic peels, bridal and makeup services, body and face waxing, body treatments and massages are all performed by experienced therapists who aren't "just out of beauty school," Attallah reiterated.

Lara Pierson, a certified massage therapist and CSUMB alum, is known to many of her clients as the best massage therapist in Monterey County. Pierson performs hot stone massages using jade she finds in Big Sur.

“Her was bred to [give massages]; she forces your body to relax,” Liddle said of Pierson. Massages range in price from $45 to $125 and last from 30 to 90 minutes.

“A lot of guys like the treatments we have to offer just as much as women,” Attallah said.

Josh, a salesman from Monterey who suffers from acne cystic acne scarring has tried several pharmaceutical topical creams and seen several dermatologists without having any real visible results.

“I saw results immediately,” Josh said after having his first glycolic peel ($65) at Synergy.

Alex Dunn 28 teaches second grade at MLK Middle School in Seaside. She received an arginine cosmetic peel ($65) to restore the glow of her face and skin followed by a makeup application ($55). Both treatments were performed by Attallah.

While waiting for Attallah to set up her room for the peel, a hot compress seeping an odor of freshly baked oatmeal cookies is wrapped around Dunn's neck.

“I feel very glowing,” Dunn said of her treatment. The Youngblood Mineral Cosmetics contain no synthetic ingredients, assuring Dunn's skin will not suffer a breakout in the following days. Attallah used the makeup to enhance the beauty of Dunn's natural skin tone, brought out in the peel. A close-up look at Dunn's face after the makeup application shows only a slight sign of any makeup on her face.

For any students who wish to feel that same "glowing," Liddle offers a ten percent discount on all Synergy's services, to all CSU Monterey Bay students who bring their school ID.

Synergy Day Spa is open Tuesday thru Saturday by appointment or walk-ins; Sunday and Monday by prior appointment.

620 Lighthouse Blvd. Suite #135
Pacific Grove 375-9944

Ginger is believed to have originated in south-eastern China or near-by India before rapidly spreading its zesty flavor to millions of horny homes worldwide.

Not only is ginger mentioned in the love making how-to book, the “Kama Sutra,” it is also mentioned in the writings of Confucius going back to 500 B.C.

This robust root is known as an aphrodisiac because of its ability to heighten sensitivity and increase blood flow to your own root, intensifying any midnight rendezvous.

Ginger has been consumed by humans for over 5,000 years; many other uses for the spicy rhizome have also been found. Ginger affectively soothes a tummy ache, motion sickness and other unattractive stomach conditions. It can be used as an anti-inflammatory when you’re feeling a little achy. Ginger was also used as the name of the dashing red headed nympho stranded on Gilligan’s Island.

 Though ginger may help with the nausea after a hangover, it is important to discuss any medicinal ginger usage with a doctor, and remember to take it in moderation to avoid gastric irritation. There’s nothing that says turn off better than a juicy fart in the face.

Ginger is a diaphoretic. It causes you to sweat which is good for loving; it will make your partner think you are working a lot harder than you are.

Early connoisseurs traded and prized the root at one time but today, ginger is easily found at the local grocery store.

So when purchasing ginger for your very own sweat and blood flowing love potion, remember to look for ginger with smooth skin and a fresh, gingery fragrance. It should also be firm and feel heavy, hung like a horse.

Ginger prefers a warm tropical climate; currently about 50 percent of the world’s ginger is grown in India. The United States produces ginger in Florida, Hawaii and the eastern coast of Texas.

Eat this sex laden root raw. It only contains two calories per teaspoon and is packed with other nutrients like Vitamin B6, and not consuming enough of this vitamin is said to lead to moodiness and irritability which could be detrimental in the bedroom.

**Ginger Tips:**

- Ginger is available year round
- Ginger should be kept in a cold and dry place, usually at 40 to 45°F.
- After purchasing, refrigerate non used portions wrapped tightly in paper towels and plastic up to 2 weeks or more
- Freezing for up to three months is also an option.

**Ginger Recipe: Blue Ginger Kir Royales**

**This Recipe uses two aphrodisiacs to increase the potential.**

**Blue Ginger Kir Royales**

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 cups ginger slices, peeled (1/8-inch thick)
- 2 cups water
- 1/4 cup blue curaçao
- 1 bottle champagne or sparkling wine

Mix ginger, sugar, water and curaçao together in a saucepan and bring to a simmer. Reduce by 50 percent until a syrup consistency is reached. The syrup will thicken as it cools. Strain warm syrup and allow to completely cool in the refrigerator. Take ginger slices and completely coat in sugar. Spread on sheet pan and slowly dry out in a preheated 225 degree oven for 3 hours. Ginger slices should be dried but still chewy.

Using champagne flutes add 1 tablespoon of the ginger syrup and fill the rest of the glass with champagne. Place a small piece of the candied ginger in each glass and serve to potential lovers.
It's hard to imagine CSU Monterey Bay junior outside hitter Brittany Etchings not on a volleyball court. The career leader in kills (1,058) for the Otters only knows one speed and that's full speed. Healthy or injured, Etchings gives her all on every play, whether the team is losing in a blowout or playing a five game thriller and the team knows they can count on her to get that one kill that gets everyone pumped up. With hard hitting skills and an improved passing game added to her repertoire, the sky is the limit for Etchings at CSU Monterey Bay.

Born in Poway, Calif., Etchings was a multi-sport athlete growing up, playing soccer, softball and basketball in addition to volleyball. Interestingly, Etchings quit playing volleyball in sixth-grade as she wasn't able to handle the physical aspect of the game.

As a freshman at Poway High School, Etchings began playing volleyball again after growing four inches that helped stretch her frame out. Unfortunately, Etchings didn't see much playing time her freshman year but that only fueled her fire.

Etchings returned her sophomore year, ready to go after spending a summer of playing in volleyball clubs. Her hard work paid off as she would earn honors such as All Palomar League and All-CIF Southern Section during her remaining three-years.

Sadly, Etchings wasn't heavily recruited out of high school as she was a late bloomer in the game of volleyball and didn't know anything about the whole recruiting process. As a result, Etchings considered going to the East Coast to continue her volleyball career and had conversations with Liberty University and an offer from Colgate University. Ultimately, Etchings decided not to travel to the East Coast as the schools were extremely expensive and were not offering scholarships.

Around the same time, CSU Monterey Bay women's volleyball head coach Jerry Gregg had been recruiting two of Etchings' Epic Volleyball Club teammates, one of which was current Otters outside hitter Karina Farley and wasn't impressed with Etchings game.

Gregg recalls that when he saw Etchings play on her club volleyball team, she was making passing and hitting errors and even though she was physically strong, she wasn't his first choice as an outside hitter for CSU Monterey Bay. "Coaches make mistakes too," said Gregg. Fortunately, Etchings wanted to come to CSU Monterey Bay and Gregg eventually gave in.

On April 28, 2004, Etchings signed her National Letter of Intent and was told by Gregg that she was going to have to work hard to earn her spot on the team because he was also recruiting current Otter outside hitter Courtney Taubert as well. "Everyone in my class got recruited except me," said a chuckling Etchings.

Through some circumstances, Etchings' hard work in the summer led to her getting her shot in her first year with the team, the same year the school moved to Division II play for athletics. Etchings remembers the first year being the hardest and roughest because she had never lost that much before (the team finished 3-25 overall and 1-18 in CCAA play).
The following season was not only better for the team as they improved to 13-16 overall (5-13 CCAA) but Etchings would be named CCAA Player of the Week for recording 31 kills in a game against Chico State, becoming the first Otter Athlete in school history to win the award.

star volleyballer just getting started

This past season was bittersweet for the team as they had high expectations and even though they finished 14-15 overall (8-12 CCAA), Etchings felt that the team just clicked too late in the season.

Etchings though, had another outstanding season, hitting .200 with a team high 337 kills while also recording 32 aces, 46 total blocks and 409 digs. As a result, Etchings was named player of the week for the second time in her career and made history again by becoming the first Otter athlete in school history to be named to the All-CCAA first team since the school’s move to Division II.

But, Etchings is quick to point out that none of her awards and achievements would be possible without her teammates, who she feels deserve the awards just as much. “This is not an individual sport,” said Etchings, who loves the team aspect of the game. “It takes all the players to be successful and all six on the court need to act as one as this is a communication sport.”

Off the court, Etchings is described by her best friends as a genuine person and someone they can count on in any situation. In her free time, Etchings spends time trying to catch up with her school work as her major is TAMAC with a focus on network systems. Etchings says that her focus could change though since routing is difficult but wants to stay with computers because they have better paying jobs.

When she’s not catching up on her school work, Etchings can be seen on the beach volleyball courts, working on her dream goal of playing in the AVP Pro Beach Volleyball circuit. Etchings says that she would have to get sponsors first and that because of NCAA regulations, she has to wait for summer time to compete in competitions.

Based on the AVPNext rating system, Etchings currently has an “AA” rating, meaning she has developed power as a major weapon, can vary strategies and styles of play in a competitive situation and hit dependable shots in a stress situation. However, Etchings wants to get an “AAA” rating, meaning she has had intensive training for national tournament competition at the collegiate and semi-professional levels and has obtained a regional or national ranking.

In addition to catching up with her school work and working towards her goal of playing AVP Pro Beach Volleyball, Etchings is currently rehabbing from a knee injury, which she describes as frustrating because no one really knows what’s wrong with it.

The injury occurred during a match in mid-season when Etchings was late on a set and landed with her knee inward. “I was fine with my adrenaline pumping but once it shut down, my knee was hurting,” said Etchings, who is no stranger to injuries as she has injured her shoulder, shin, back and both elbows. For now, Etchings is keeping her workouts to a minimal with light weights and treadmill work but it’s frustrating for her as she is accustomed to working out for up to two hours a time.

For next season, the Lady Otters will be focusing on improving their defense during spring workouts because that is what wins games and championships. Etchings says that as long as the team stays positive and happy, they will be fine. Etchings also guarantees that they will beat San Diego (because she can’t stand to lose to them anymore) and take out other teams along the way. “It will just take hard work,” said a confident Etchings.

As for how much longer she wants to keep playing volleyball, a smiling Etchings said, “I want to keep playing until I can’t do it anymore. I’ll probably be one of those old ladies in an old ladies league, wearing a white tank-top and hot pink shorts.”

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Seniors shoot for glory days

Evan Hatt, Staff Reporter
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The CSU Monterey Bay women’s basketball team is off to a stronger start than is season’s past, already winning half of the total amount of games they won last season, four. Currently, the team is 2-2 overall and 1-1 in CCAA play. A huge reason for the early improvement is the leadership being shown by the team’s five returning senior players, a couple of which are four-year CSU Monterey Bay program players.

Senior guard/forward Natalie Franka says that the team has set high goals of going out and winning over half of their games in conference and overall. Even though the team has struggled in seasons past competing in their new division and conference, Franka believes this year’s team is going to make a statement and turn some heads.

Another reason for the early improvement is the teams focus on using their speed to their advantage by making their fast break game a weapon that the opposition must respect and defend. “We are a lot faster than in the past and our speed has been working so far, but we are still developing every aspect of our game,” said Franka.

In addition to the improved gameplay of the team, head coach Amber Magner and assistant coach Brianna Chambers are also changing the mentality around the team by offering championship advice. “They tell us we must act as champions, that champions work hard and understand the concept of team playing as one and not individuals,” said senior center Denisha Profit.

Senior center Kelly Mezger expects and knows the team will do well this season and sees many wins in the teams’ future. Mezger believes the ladies this year are a cohesive unit on the court and feels the seniors have helped in enabling the teams’ spirit and drive. “I hope that this year will be the start of a long, lasting legacy,” said Mezger.

Added Profit, “We have five seniors but the value of hard work, what it takes to be a winner and leadership lies within all 15 girls on this team.”

“They tell us we must act as champions, that champions work hard and understand the concept of team playing as one and not individuals,”

SAID DENISHA PROFIT, SENIOR CENTER
Many things define Christmas in Monterey. Ice isn’t usually one of them. Until last year when the Monterey Fairgrounds decided to put in a temporary ice rink, most Monterey residents had not participated in this seasonal tradition.

The rink operates from Thanksgiving until New Year’s Day, giving people plenty of time to come test their abilities. I naturally decided to give it a try. Being that I am from the desert, I can count my ice-skating experiences on one finger.

As I walked into the rink it was different then I had imagined. A huge tent enclosed the area of the rink. Christmas music blared from the speakers and people everywhere were dressed as if it were snowing outside. I could see the frost that lingered from people’s breath as they chatted in line.

$12 had bought me a ticket for two hours of rink time and skate rentals. I strapped on my skates and attempted to stand. I scooted to the rink and became increasingly terrified. I noticed most of the people that were skating seemed to know what they were doing. I was a bit surprised. Was I the only one who couldn’t skate? Good thing I brought someone who is guaranteed to be worse at this then me.

The last time I can remember being on skates it ended in a broken wrist and a whole year of learning to write left handed. Now I am on ice, which is supposed to be harder. I timidly entered the rink.

Kids whizzed by me yelling and throwing ice shavings at each other. I pretended I was taking a break hoping no one would notice how I clenched the wall next to me, holding on for life. I moved around the rink careful to keep one hand by the wall at all times.

I quickly got the hang of it and soon moved toward the middle of the rink. Just as I was beginning to feel cool, I was promptly reminded otherwise. Ice shavings hit my face. My knees buckled, I failed my hands in the air hoping to regain balance, I looked for some unsuspecting kid to grab onto but there was no one. I went down hard and fast.

I sat in the middle of the rink wondering how I was going to stand up and leave with everyone gawking at me. As I stayed there, red in the face, my pride was a hurt. I felt betrayed by my ice skating experience. Ice-skating may not be my forte but when I stepped onto the hard surface, the back of my blade “accidentally” swiped someone else’s. Oops. At least it was fun.

I felt betrayed by my ice skating experience.
What is your greatest regret or achievement of the semester?

Rachel Pino
Senior
CHHS
“"I regret not having enough time for things other than school.”

Jesse Williams
Junior
Business
“...that I didn’t study Korean. I promised myself that I would. It was a real lack of discipline.”

Nick Bell
Senior
Business
“My greatest achievement is teaching a younger generation of students how to do math and life lessons.”

Nic Torricelli
Graduate Student:
History Credential
“Graduating, being accepted into the credential program and doing pretty well.”

Nathan Torricelli
Sophomore
Undeclared
“I regret being slapped many a-times by some lovely ladies...”

Otter Oops
Wrong Photo credit Pg. 4 Campus Construction, should be Sheryl Fisher.
We regret all mistakes.
Sincerely, The Otter Realm

Provost name should be Uribe.